GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:37
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Gas Hydrates Reserve
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has struck gas reserve in the form of hydrates of the Andhra coast recently and if so, the details thereof along with the estimated gas reserve found and the time by which the said gas reserve is likely to be explored;
(b) the details of on-going projects of shale oil and gas along with number of such projects completed so far, State/UT/project-wise;
(c) the funds allocated and disbursed for these projects during the last three years and the present status of the projects, State/UT/-wise and project-wise;
(d) the efforts made by the Government to promote such alternative sources of energy and attract investment in the sector; and
(e) the details of the guidelines put in place/laid down by the Government to evaluate the environmental impact of such explorations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)
(a) Gas hydrate programme in the country is at Research and Development Stage. Under National Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) expedition-2 gas hydrates have been discovered in deep waters of the Krishna Godavari (KG) Basin. As per preliminary estimates, 134 Trillion Cubic Feet of gas hydrates are present in KG-Basin. However, further drilling / coring / logging and analytical studies of the subsurface data are required to establish this gas hydrate resource.
(b) to (d) In order to exploit shale gas & Oil in the country, Government of India on 14th October, 2013 announced the Policy Guidelines for Exploration and Exploitation of Shale Gas and Oil by National Oil Companies (ONGC and Oil India Limited (OIL)) in their onland Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) / Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) areas awarded under the nomination regimes.
In pursuance of this Policy, under the first phase of assessment ONGC has identified and initiated shale gas and oil exploration activities in 50 PEL/PML areas and OIL has identified and initiated
shale gas exploration activities in 6 PEL/PML areas. The State-wise details of the identified shale gas blocks are given below:

S.No.	State/UT	Number of Blocks
1	Andhra Pradesh	10
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3	Assam	8
4	Gujarat	28
5	Tamil Nadu and Puducherry	9
	Total	56

So far ONGC has drilled 18 assessment wells for Shale gas and oil.
Government of India has not allocated any fund for these projects. However, ONGC/OIL are carrying out shale gas exploration at their sole-risk. During last three years 2013-16, ONGC and OIL have made an expenditure of Rs. 192.08 crore on shale gas exploration.
In order to promote exploration and exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbon resources such as CBM, shale oil & gas, Government has recently approved a Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) wherein companies can explore and produce all kind of hydrocarbons including shale oil/gas, CBM & gas hydrate, etc. under single license.
(e): The exploration & production of non-conventional hydrocarbon has to comply with the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act-1980, Environment (Protection) Act-1986 and such other guidelines/rules stipulated by Ministry of Environment & Forest on the lines similar to the exploration & production of conventional hydrocarbons.
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